



Chapter

5

City of Falls Church Solid Waste Management System Overview

Overview of the City's Current Solid Waste Management System

This chapter presents an overview of the City's current solid waste management (SWM) system, including organizational structure and funding strategies.

City of Falls Church SWM System Organization

The City's Department of Environmental Services is responsible for recycling, collection, transfer and disposal of solid waste in the City.

The City's Department of Environmental Services (DES) is responsible for the recycling, collection, transfer and disposal of solid waste in the City. Two DES divisions—Operations and Engineering— administer City solid waste programs. These divisions are responsible for program administration, operations, fiscal management, and enforcement of City Code related to solid waste management.

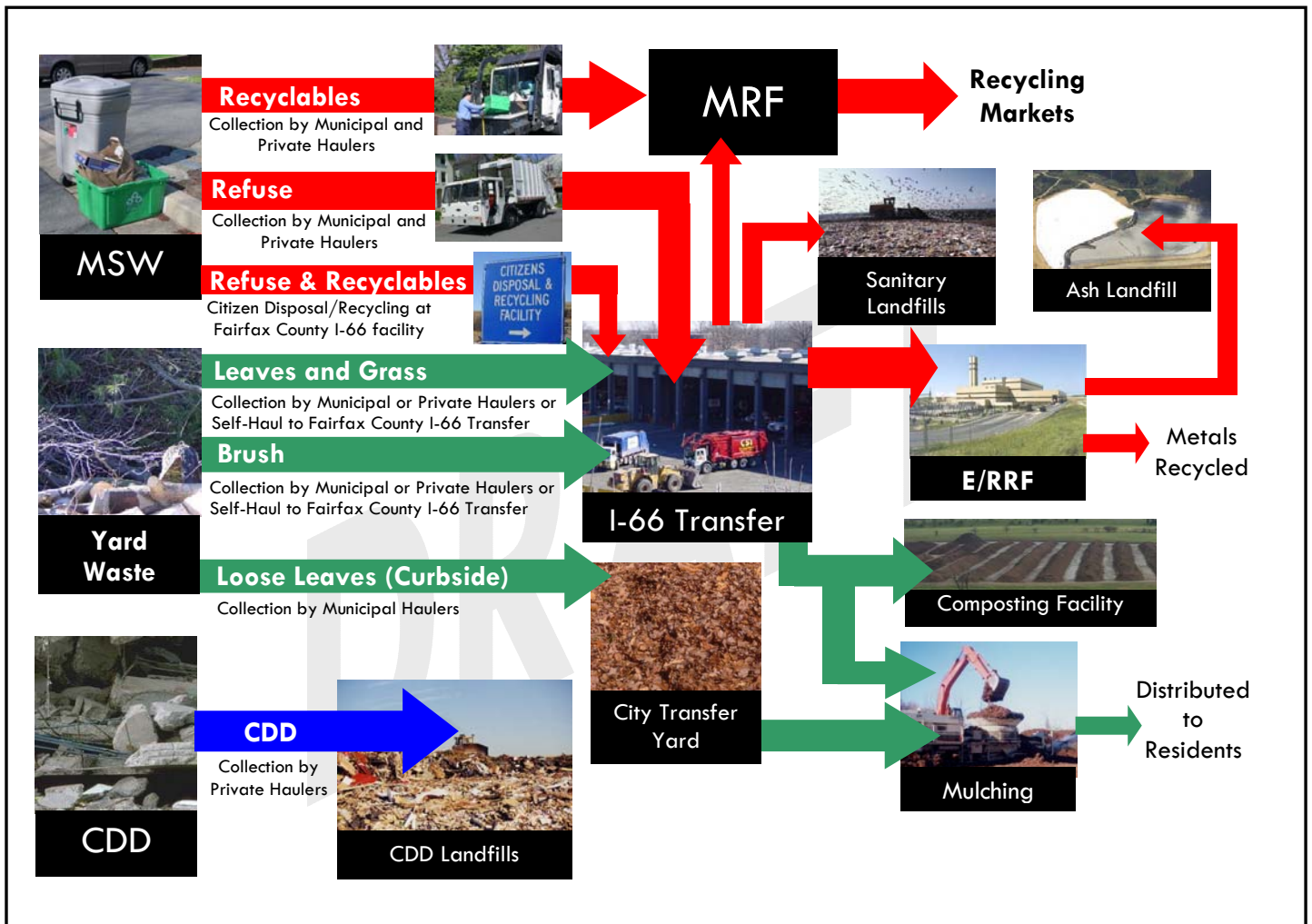
The Operations Division is responsible for directing facilities used to manage City-generated solid waste. Currently, these facilities include the City Property Yard (7100 Gordon Road) for equipment storage and maintenance, the Falls Church Recycling Center (217 Gordon Road) for drop-off of recyclable materials, and the City Transfer Yard (off Leesburg Pike, west of George Mason High School) for storage and processing of loose leaves. Other capital assets include solid waste collection equipment and vehicles.

The Engineering Division (Office of Recycling) is responsible for SWM planning, program development, waste reduction and recycling outreach and education, recycling contracts management, and solid waste code enforcement.

City of Falls Church SWM System Flow

Figure 5-1 diagrams the flow of MSW, CDD and yard waste generated in the City of Falls Church. Management of these wastes, as well as special wastes, is described in detail in Chapters 6 through 9 of this SWMP.

Figure 5-1. Flow of Solid Waste Generated in the City of Falls Church



Current SWM Program Funding

The primary source of funding for the SWM program is the City's General Fund, most of which is generated through real estate taxes. Following are additional sources of revenue:

- Sale of curbside recyclable material collected by the City,

- User fees from residents for collection of bagged yard waste and bulk waste (“special pickups”),
- Virginia Litter Prevention and Recycling Grant funds,
- Fines paid through the Solid Waste Code Enforcement Program (civil penalties), and
- Private sector donations associated with outreach and education.

These additional sources of revenue are placed in the General Fund, except for private donations, which are placed in the Recycling Donations Account.

Under the direction of the Department of Environmental Services, the Operations and Engineering divisions manage the annual budget and propose recommendations for expenditures and fee structures. The City’s Department of Administrative Services (Finance Division) oversees this effort and assists the City Manager in preparing the budget. The annual budget is presented to the City Council for advertisement, public hearing, and adoption.

Each year, the City evaluates capital projects necessary to support the SWM Program. These capital projects are included in the City’s Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The CIP presents the annual capital needs for the previous five years, and projects capital needs for the next five-year period.